Shelling out of additional surcharge on ships calling at Mumbai Port

4051. SHRI YADLAPATI VENKAT RAO: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether ships calling at Mumbai Port are being forced to shell out an additional surcharge to secure a berth;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether the Mumbai Port Trust is empowered to collect this additional surcharge/tariff without any approval; and

(d) if not, how they are forcing the illegal payment?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) No, Sir.

(d) Surcharge is levied by the Stevedores and not by Mumbai Port Trust.

Withdrawal of import duty on ships

4052. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of SHIPPING be pleased to state:

(a) whether his Ministry has approached for withdrawal of five percent duty on import of ships; and

(b) if so, the action proposed with a view to promoting growth of the Indian fleet?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SHIPPING (SHRI HUKUMDEO NARAYAN YADAV): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. This Ministry has requested Ministry of Finance for the withdrawal of customs duty on import of ships proposed in the Finance Bill of 2001-02 as shipping industry is operating in a global market and facing competition from foreign shipowners, who have the benefit of such exemptions. The net result of this new levy will be that Indian shipowners may not go for fresh acquisition under